

Drugs are chemicals that affect our minds or our bodies. Drugs can help to make sick people better. But sometimes people take drugs just because they like the way the drugs make them feel. As well as curing people, drugs can have unpleasant or dangerous side-effects. This is why many drugs can only be prescribed by a doctor.

In the past, all drugs were made from plants or animals. For example, the painkiller opium was made from a type of poppy. Scientist studied many of these early drugs to learn how they work and how to produce them using chemicals. Now many drugs are made from chemicals.



The English singer Amy Winehouse. She died at the age of 28 of drug abuse.

There are several main types of drug used in medicine.

Analgesics, such as aspirin, are used to fight pain.

Antibiotics like penicillin kill bacteria that cause serious infections. **Tranquillizers** help to calm people down.

Sedatives help people to sleep.

Sometimes people feel they cannot manage without a particular drug – they become **addicted**. The alcohol in beer, wine or liquor is a kind of drug. So is the nicotine in tobacco. Nicotine is addictive. This is why millions of people

continue to smoke cigarettes, in spite of the fact that cigarettes damage their health. There are also other, stronger addictive drugs, such as heroin or cocaine. Often people need help to overcome their addiction.

to affect: to disturb

to cure: to heal

to prescribe: to recommend

poppy: a red flower

pain: aching

to cause: to make

serious: grave

to damage: to harm



TRUE OR FALSE?

0	Drugs affect our mind or bodies.	TRUE
1	Drugs can cure people.	
2	Sometimes drugs have bad side-effects	
3	Opium is made of butterflies.	
4	Some drugs are made of chemicals.	
5	Cigarettes cause fatal lung disease.	
6	Tranquillizers help to wake up people.	
7	Most people smoke because nicotine is addictive.	
8	Heroin is not a strong addictive drug.	
9	Aspirin is used to fight pain.	
10	Amy Winehouse died of old age.	
11	Alcohol is an illegal drug.	
12	Cocaine is a legal drug.	